

# THE SWORD OF THE LORD

EDITED BY JOHN R. RICE

Office 512 West Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

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## The Wrath of God Revealed

BY REV. CHARLES E. FULLER

PREACHED ON OLD FASHIONED REVIVAL HOUR, SUNDAY NIGHT, OCT. 13, 1940. BROADCAST OVER MUTUAL BROADCASTING CO. NETWORK. STENOGRAPHICALLY REPORTED.

Now turn in your Bibles to the first chapter of Romans, verse 18. In our last broadcast we spoke on the 16th and 17th verses which is the theme of this wonderful epistle to the Romans:

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

"For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith."

I told you to underline the four occurrences of the little word *for*. "For I am not ashamed," "for it is the power of God," "for therein is the righteousness of God revealed," and then tonight we have the fourth *for* in the 18th verse:

"For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness."

Now this wonderful gospel, good news, good tidings, centers around the Lord Jesus Christ, His death on the cross, His burial and resurrection, and His appearing again. But tonight I want to speak about another theme. This broadcast is based upon Romans 1:18: "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness." Here

is the fourth *for* in the three verses, 16 to 18.

Now I realize to speak on such a subject as the wrath of God is not popular, and I don't propose to tickle your ears tonight. I love to preach on the love of God, yes, but when I begin to preach on the wrath of God — well, it is a different story. But you listen through for I want you to see how to escape the coming wrath of God. Personally, I don't like to speak on such a theme, but one could not be a true ambassador unless he did preach on this theme and declared the whole counsel of God.

And now for the message. In John 3:16 is the love of God portrayed. You know that verse of Scripture very well. But in Romans 1:18 we have the wrath of God revealed. Listen carefully: in Romans 1:16, 17, as I have already stated, we find the theme of the entire epistle that the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth, and that in this gospel is revealed the divine righteousness to be received through faith. Immediately the question arises, "Why is that divine righteousness necessary? Is every man devoid of that required righteousness?" And the answer is Yes, and can be given in very simple words because we have none of our own righteousness. Now God's Word clearly tells us that all have sinned, that all are short and coming short

(CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

## Our Best News — Souls Saved

The Best News That Workers in The Sword of the Lord Office Ever Hear is That Souls Are Being Saved Through "Bible Facts About Heaven," "What Must I Do To Be Saved?" "Religious But Lost," and Other Booklets; Through The Sword of the Lord, and through the Editor's Ministry Over the Radio and In Revival Meetings.

BY FAIRY SHAPPARD

Working now in The Sword of the Lord office full time are Misses Lola Bradshaw and Viola Walden. Others of us only work part time, but have our definite place and part in the work we love so much. I work about twenty-five hours a week. (The rest of the time I attend Wheaton College and Academy. I have worked for Dr. Rice about five and a half years, most of the time full time, but am now attending college and working at the same time.) Mary Lloys Rice, fifteen, and Elizabeth Rice, thirteen, each work about nine hours a week in the office. Mrs. Rice helps with the mailing of the paper and with other parts of the work at other times. Even Jessie Ruth, eleven, and Joan, nine, help fold and wrap papers, stamp booklets, etc. Besides these there are several volunteer workers who help with the mailing of the paper and other work on Friday.

Among the many, many sweet blessings that come to us who are privileged to have a part in this blessed work is the blessing of sharing the good news that comes in the mail day after day. Many write to tell of blessings received through the editor's ministry, through booklets and books sent out, and through The Sword of the Lord. But the best news we ever hear is the good news that some one has trusted Christ as Saviour.

We feel that readers of "The Sword" rejoice with us when we share with them this good news, and so I pass on to you, with Bro. Rice's consent, parts of some letters that have recently come.

### Five Claim Salvation Through Heaven Book

Over 10,000 copies of the new book on Heaven have gone out. Word has come from many who have been blessed by it, and we have heard from five who were saved after reading it. We have already told you about three of them, and since then two others have written us that they were saved through reading the book. One was a woman in Chicago, and another a lady in Evansville, Wisconsin.

### Saved Through WMBI Broadcast

A friend who heard Dr. Rice's broadcasts on WMBI in September wrote the Radio Department of Moody Bible Institute as follows, and Miss Mildred Erickson sent a copy of the letter on to this office:

"I just received my book on Heaven today. I'm very happy to have it. It was through John R. Rice's messages that I was led to believe on Jesus Christ for my soul's salvation. Until I heard Bro. Rice say that many who think they are saved are not, I thought that I was; then I began to realize that it was time for me to make sure of my salvation. I thank God

## Please Help!

I don't mean help the editor financially, for through these six and a half years the editor has never taken any money from *The Sword of the Lord*. We have put between \$3,000 and \$4,000 on the printing bill.

No, we want you to help reach more people with the gospel. We are giving long hours of planning and toil and prayer to reach thousands of homes every week with the gospel message. We are putting hard earned money in it, and the family and workers are glad to sacrifice to this end. Now we are making it so you can help by sending trial subscriptions to hundreds and thousands of friends who should get acquainted with this gospel paper.

You may send a trial subscription to any friend or loved one for seventeen weeks, four months, for only 25c.

You may send 5 such subscriptions for \$1.00, 10 for \$2.00, 25 for \$5.00, 50 for \$10.00.

Some ought to subscribe for every family in your church.

Some should send it to every teacher in your Sunday School.

Some should send it to all your relatives.

Surely, every reader who has been blessed by these pages should send it to someone. In seventeen weeks many souls will be saved by these sermons by Evangelist Charles E. Fuller, by the editor, and others.

In seventeen weeks how many Christians will be stirred to win souls!

In seventeen weeks how many people will become interested in the Bible! How many young people will have problems settled, and will be touched by the Spirit of God through these evangelistic messages.

As prayerfully and unselfishly as we know how we are giving of ourselves unstintingly to get out the gospel. Brother, sister, please help!

Send in a list of names at once. This campaign will soon close.

A card or letter will be sent to every trial subscriber saying that a friend has paid for their subscription with earnest prayer that it may be a blessing. We will not use your name, unless you request it.

Give names and addresses carefully. And do it now! Write *The Sword of the Lord*, 512 West Franklin Street, Wheaton, Illinois.

that He has shown me the way, and that I have the assurance of the Holy Spirit in my heart."

### Many Claim Christ Through Booklet 'What Must I Do To Be Saved?'

On October 21st came a signed decision slip, clipped from the booklet, "What Must I Do To Be Saved?" The decision slip reads:

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Realizing that I am a sinner and believing that Christ died for my sins, I here and now trust Him to be my personal Saviour, depending on Him to forgive all my sins, change my heart, and give me everlasting life as He promised to do. I am glad to confess Him as my Saviour and gladly mail this to let you know.

(Signed) "Mrs. A. M. Davenport, Iowa"

A man at Dubuque, Iowa, read this booklet and trusted Christ as his Saviour. He was sick, but asked his wife to let Dr. Rice know of his decision.

Then from Ardsley, New York, a man signed the slip from the

## "He That Winneth Souls Is Wise" Prov. 11:30

OR THE VALUE OF A SOUL IN THE LIGHT OF THE TOMENTS OF HELL AND OF THE JUDGMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

BY EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE

(Sermon preached over Radio WMBI Monday, September 9, 1940. Stenographically reported.)

In Jude, verses 22 and 23, I read these verses to begin with:

"And of some have compassion, making a difference:

"And others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh."

"And others save with fear." How much is the soul worth as weighed by the torments of the damned in an eternal Hell?

A missionary tells us that in China, he, on a house boat, saw a man who was knocked overboard. Evidently he could not swim, and was drowning. There were some men nearby with a seine or net, and this missionary said, "Bring your net quickly and let's find this man. He can't swim and he is out of sight under the water." They seemed indifferent, and said, "It isn't convenient."

But the missionary replied, "Hurry, hurry or the man will drown. Bring your net quickly!" They said, "How much will you give us?"

"Let's get the man and we will talk about that later."

"Will you give us \$50.00?"

"I don't have \$50.00 but I will give you everything I have."

"How much is it?"

The missionary counted his money and he had \$14.00, and he said, "I'll give you \$14.00."

So the men finally brought the net and after awhile they found the man, but it was too late. He was dead.

I wonder; if you could get \$50.00 for every soul you would win, would you win many? I wonder how many you would win? If you could get \$1,000 — and no one doubts that a soul is worth that much — would you do more about getting people saved than you do now? "Others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire."

I have a strange urgency in these last few days about soul winning. Oh, people do so little about soul winning. The country is full of churches and preachers, Sunday school teachers, deacons, elders, stewards, Christians, singers, and missionaries, but God have pity — very few do anything about saving a soul. Very few really work at saving lost sinners. I want you to consider the worth of a soul as weighed by eternal torment.

First of all, we face the fact of sin. It would be a good thing for us to come back and realize that men are sinners. We must face this. The people you ride with on the street car this morning, or on the "L," the people where you work — they may be nice, refined, cultured people, clean in their habits, with pleasant speech and pleasing personalities; there may be many lovely things about them, but we must face this, that they are undone sinners, lost, condemned, going to Hell and deserving to go to Hell. They are Hell-bound, and Hell-deserving sinners. Some people don't like for me to use the word Hell, but Hell is a fact just as much as Heaven is, and it is a place just as much as Chicago is a place. Hell is a place and men go there; they go there

because they are sinners, unregenerate sinners.

I know people say, "Well, it is only because people haven't trusted Christ that they go to Hell." But primarily the reason people have to have a Saviour or go to Hell is that they are sinners. The place to begin with anybody on the matter of salvation is the fact of sin. "For there is no difference for all have sinned and come short of the glory of God," the Scripture says. May God give us a consciousness of the awful waste and ruin and the eternal punishment that is inevitable for sinners. God loves sinners but He hates sin. Being a Holy God, a righteous God, an honest God, God must bring sin to judgment and eternal death. Oh, men are sinners everywhere, ruined sinners, and are going to Hell if they do not repent.

In the prayer request period a little bit ago you heard a request from a woman (I suppose it was a woman), "Pray for my home. It is on the verge of being broken up." Now many requests come to preachers these days like this. Sin is everywhere. Sin fills the jails, the penitentiaries, sin fills the hospitals, sin fills the highways with wrecked bodies. Sin fills the cemeteries with the bodies of souls who die. And sin fills Hell with souls of unsaved people. Oh, sin is everywhere! Now on the account of sin, there comes eternal punishment and death.

If I should ask many here today, you would say, "Oh, I believe the Bible. I believe it from cover to cover. I believe all of it." But it isn't real to you. As the world rocks on, you sit about in your ordinary ways, you go through the same rigmarole of public services. You bake pies for the church and have sales, you go on with your little meetings, with "Madam Chairman," this, and "Dr. So. and So.," that. Our little programs with no tears, no seeking the lost, no agonizing, no suffering, no passions! God have pity on us! The

(CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO)

## 'GOD BLESS THE ONE WHO DID THIS KIND DEED'

So says Mrs. Maggie McMinn of Asheville, North Carolina, after receiving a subscription sent by someone else. Mrs. McMinn's letter follows:

"Dear Sir: Will you please allow me the privilege of thanking some kind friend, through the pages of your paper, for subscribing for this splendid paper for me? *The Sword of the Lord* is one of the most spiritual little papers I ever have read. Any hungry heart who reads it can find food and light from its pages. "God bless the one who did this kind deed. I shall read and pass them on. Yours in the name of Jesus,

"Mrs. Maggie McMinn."

See That Your Friends and Relatives Get This Paper!

Don't let this opportunity pass to get *The Sword of the Lord* to five friends for \$1.00. Or you can send it to 25 friends for only \$5.00. Below we give spaces for you to (CONTINUED ON PAGE FOUR)

**"He That Winneth Souls Is Wise"**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

world has lost all confidence in the churches these days and in the ministers these days and they have a good reason for it. There is a fundamental insincerity, a hypocrisy in anybody who says he believes in Hell, yet doesn't try to save people from it. He names the name of Christ, believes in Christ, believes there is another world better than this one for those saved, and believes, according to the Bible, that there is a place of torment for people who are lost, who go there without hope, if they do not trust Christ but die unrepentant. Yet he has no concern, no burden, gives no warning! You say you believe in eternal torment for the unsaved. I don't blame people for thinking you are a hypocrite. There is certainly not much like Jesus in you who go on day by day with no compassion, no burdened heart, no broken soul over the dying world around about you.

You remember Cain, the murderer, the first one ever born. How many sons of Cain fill the pulpits and pews today! It was Cain who said, "Am I my brother's keeper?" You say it, too. "I put a dollar in the collection plate and let the preachers win souls," you say. Yes, I know, but do you realize that you are bought with the same blood, that you too cost all the agony of the cross, and that God has just as much invested in you as in the best preacher in the world? You owe all you have to Him.

How much is a soul worth? I can imagine the rich man in Hell still saying, "Oh, if I could have a man to dip his finger in water and put just one drop on my tongue!" You say that is figurative. The Bible does not say so. You say it is a parable. I deny it. It gives names, places and Jesus saw the man in Hell and heard him begging for a drop of water. But we have to have our tile bath rooms, our electric refrigeration, our fruit brought from the seven seas, and desserts and salads — God have pity on us! We are all up in the air if we can't have a new 1941 car, and if we have to work more than thirty hours a week, yet the world is going to Hell and we don't care!

In the place of torment, men cry out with unceasing agony for a drop of water. Do you care? How much is a soul worth? You remember when the man in Hell cried and said, "Oh, father Abraham, my five brothers; send someone to them lest they come to this place of torment!" Oh, how little we care. We would be concerned if we could look into Hell or into Heaven. The thing that sets the bells of rejoicing ringing and the thing that brings the shouts of praises in Heaven is for a soul to be saved.

In Hell they have a double interest. One is the torments they endure, the eternal memory of lost opportunities and rejected invitations. And then another thing, they have a concern unspeakable for the lost ones yet on earth whom they love. How much do you care about a lost soul? The Lord says, "Others save with fear."

I remember when I was a lad in west Texas. I lived at Dundee, a little cow town, about eighteen miles away from Electra. Electra was the center of a great oil boom. Men were digging an oil well. After the well had been spudded in, a big twelve-inch bit chugged down, down, down — pour in more water, and chug, chug, chug, down 180 feet they went. Then they had to change bits, and they left the derrick floor uncovered while they changed the bit. There were some children playing around among them a five year old boy. This boy backed off into the hole, down,

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EVANGELIST JOHN R. RICE,  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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down he went, 180 feet into the slowly rising salt water in that hole. The hole was tight, and the boy went down slowly, and the fall did not kill him. The children's screams attracted the men. When the father of the boy got there, he cried, "Don't tell his mother! We'll get him out some way!" They put a rope around the father's body to let him down into the well, but his broad shoulders stuck in the twelve-inch hole, so they had to pull him out. Then they let the rope down and tried to loop it over the little one's shoulders and pull him out, but in the darkness he fought it off and screamed and cried for daddy. Salt water was slowly rising in the well. The boy got out that a boy had fallen into the well, and people came from Electra, Iowa Park, Wichita Falls, Vernon, etc. All over the country side, from homes, farms and ranches the cars came. The Ft. Worth Star-Telegram said there were 5,000 people gathered around that oil well away out on the prairie. And wicked men, blaspheming cursing men, men who were rough and who had no thought of Sunday (they worked on Sunday like any other day), no thought of the Bible, no thought of God, men worked with faces whitened and their hands trembled as they tried to get the rope over the little fellow to pull him out. But the salt water rose and finally there was a strangling breath and the little one was still. When at last the cries were stopped and it was certain the little fellow was dead, they let down grab-hooks into the soft little body and pulled him to the surface. I have thought many times how those thousands of people around there, big, rough, old men, cried like babies.

But, oh, of how much more worth is a soul, an immortal soul away from God, to be forever in torment, unredeemed, unregenerated with no hope of the future, dying without Christ! And we don't lift a finger to save them! I tell you, we will have to come back to the fundamentals of the faith. Too many of us are fundamentalists, orthodox Christians, believing everything in our head, but it hasn't ever gotten into our eyes to blind us with tears, and it hasn't gotten into our throats to choke us with emotion, and it hasn't gotten into our pocket books to make us willing to send out money and do without food and clothes to get the gospel to sinners. It has never gotten into your hearts and caused your pillows to be wet with tears. It has never gotten into your stomachs. You still enjoy three square meals a day. You don't take much exercise and you eat and grow fat and have to diet.

I tell you right now the eternal facts about death, Hell, judgment, eternal punishment and God's love toward men, to average church members and the average preacher they are not real. What we need is the kind of orthodoxy which gets down into the heart, and our eyes will run with tears and our hearts will ache with the passion which Paul had when he said, "I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost, that I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart. For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh" (Rom. 9:1, 2). May God give us a broken heart over dying sinners!

Do you believe in Hell; do you believe in an eternal torment for the damned, for those who will die without Christ? I know these words seem crude to you, I know they are passé, obsolete. But I tell you right now, the kind of hypocrisy God Himself must hate and which must be an abomination to God is that church members go through a weary round of dallying programs, forms of worship, orders of service, with no passion, no burden, no tears, no anxiety for sinners!

I have recently read the story of Brainard, how he wept over the American Indians and knelt in the snow and prayed and prayed and prayed. When he set apart a day of fasting and prayer, many times he would say, "The morning went by heavily." He would say, "I can't seem to get much joy from the Lord." Again his diary records

"About noon-time my spirit was lifted up somewhat," then he would go on all through the day and toward the night God spoke from Heaven and he said, "My soul was blessed and I longed for nothing more than to do the will of God about everything. Oh, my poor children of the forest (the Indians), that they might be saved!"

I tell you, we need a passion that controls our souls and alters our lives and changes our programs and gives us a burden about people who die and go to Hell forever away from God. Do you care about sinners?

"Would you care if some friend you have met day by day, Should never be told about Jesus? Are you willing that he in the judgment should say, No one ever told me of Jesus?"

I wonder. May God give us grace to care now!

Let me bring the value of a soul another way, as weighed by the judgment seat of Christ. You know in Mark the 8th chapter we are told, "What shall it profit a man if he gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" Well, each man who listens to me today — your soul is worth such an infinite cost. This is illustrated by the death of Christ in torments and agony and shame on Calvary. And the soul is worth much even from the Christian's own selfish view-point. The Bible says in Daniel 12:3, "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever." There is coming a pay day some day.

Not very long ago a friend said to me, "John, how are you getting along?" "Fine, blessed," I said. "I have lots of work to do for God." He said, "Are people taking care of you all right?"

He thought I was a little silly anyway, because I gave up a regular salary and have not had one all of these years. And I said, "Yes, they are taking care of me. I am earning more now than I ever did in my life."

"Well, good!" he said, "I am glad to hear that."

"Don't misunderstand me," I said, "I didn't say I was getting it!"

When I tell that, people laugh. But I will have the last laugh. One day I will get it. I will get a pay day and any one else will who wins souls. "They that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament."

Oh, my, my, how much there is to make a Christian want to win souls! I admit there is a certain burden of heart that does not make life easy. Preachers sometimes say that it is so much happier to be a Christian. But Paul said that if there was no resurrection, then "we are of all men most miserable." Beaten with rods, shipwrecked on the ocean, in perils of countrymen, having fought with the lions in Ephesus, going without a wife, without a child, and hated, abused, burdened and finally stoned and dragged out of the city for dead like a horse, Paul said, "I have certainly played the fool; I am of all men in the world the most miserable fellow if there be no resurrection, if there is not another pay day some day."

I admit to you frankly, after you have passed a certain limit and go beyond it serving Christ, suffering for Him, that doesn't always bring its reward in this life. You wait, when Jesus comes you will find out it paid to win souls. In First John 2:28, the Scripture says, "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." Oh, not to be ashamed when we face Jesus! All over the land there are people who are saved, I think, that are born again, or at least they say they are.

I can't judge their hearts and you can't tell by outward appearances whether they are saved. This business of everybody thinking they can know whether people are saved or not is an abomination. You don't know. There are people who are saved who never win souls. Lots of people will surely be red in the face when Jesus comes.

People ask, "When Jesus comes, will He get all the saved?" Yes, it will be a *rapture*, not a *rupture*. (CONTINUED ON PAGE THREE)

**Our Best News —**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

same booklet saying he would trust Christ.

Approximately 600 people have claimed to have been saved through this booklet (there have probably been many others from whom we have not heard.) We thank God for these additional ones.

From a woman in Guthrie, Kentucky, we received the following decision slip signed. It was clipped from the booklet, "Religious But Lost."

"Dear Brother Rice:

"Just received your sweet letter. Was very much surprised to get a letter from you.

"Mr. Rice, I am a happy man. In some ways, though, I can see the old devil trying to trap me.

"Brother Rice, it's all new to me, but, no, I am not ashamed of Jesus. As you know, I am a male nurse. I have a very good job in a hospital here, but it is of another faith. So when they find out that I have a real Jesus in my heart I will have to look for another job, as they don't believe in this kind of salvation.

"Well, I can't explain to you, but maybe you will understand. I know something has happened. My work is so much easier. I have been going from room to room talking to my boys about Jesus. They can't understand me. Before I went to Chicago I was everything but a good fellow to my patients.

"Brother Rice, I don't know how to pray like you people. I have a prayer book but it doesn't satisfy. The Bible I have never read, or don't even know where to buy one.

"Mr. Rice, don't think I am silly, for I don't know how to write a letter to you. But remember one thing, I have the love of Jesus Christ burning in my soul. Oh, how I thank God for that young man, Mr. Chapman. He stopped me on the street in Chicago and begged me to come over and hear you preach. That was the first Christian service I was ever in.

"Well, I have run out of words, so if you can help me to understand more clearly, I will appreciate it very much.

"There is a revival starting in my neighborhood. I don't know what kind of church it is, but I am going to every church I can.

"Remember me in your prayers, and write me if you care to.

"May God bless you in your work.

"Yours truly,  
(Signed) "L — I —"

**Do You Want to Help Win Souls?**

Does your heart long to win souls too? You can do it if you ask God to help you and really work at it. Why don't you begin by getting your friends to read these books and booklets and urge them to accept Christ as Saviour? We will send you free, copies of the booklet, "What Must I Do To Be Saved" if you will promise to give them out prayerfully and carefully only to those who will agree to read them. This booklet has been wonderfully used of God to win souls. Over 300,000 copies have been printed, and they have resulted in hundreds being saved. Just recently \$350 worth were printed in more attractive form.

The booklet now has twenty-four pages, is printed in brown ink on India tinted enameled paper. On the front cover is an attractive cut of the Philippine jailor before Paul and Silas asking the question, "What must I do to be saved?"

The message is remarkably plain, presenting the plan of salvation so clearly that even children can understand it. At the same time it answers many questions and helps make it easy for hardened sinners to trust Christ.

I hope you will send for copies of this booklet today and start out at once to win souls for Christ. The only condition is that you promise to give them out prayerfully and carefully and only to those who agree to read them.

We shall be glad to send you a list of other evangelistic and Bible teaching booklets on request, with quantity prices, which are very low.

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## Care For God's Fruit Trees

"When thou shalt besiege a city a long time, in making war against it to take it, thou shalt not destroy the trees thereof by wounding an ax against them: for thou mayest eat of them, and thou shalt not cut them down (for the tree of the field is man's life) to employ them in the siege. Only the trees which thou knowest that they be not trees for food, thou shall destroy and cut them down: and thou shalt build bulwarks against the city that maketh war with thee, until it be subdued."

— Deuteronomy 20:19, 20.

H. A. IRONSIDE

Many are the salutary lessons which the Holy Spirit has put before us by means of the instruction given to Israel. We are familiar with the fact that the things which happened unto them were our types, and written for our learning. And such is the passage quoted above. Just as, when God commanded Israel, saying, "Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn," He had His own servants in mind (as so clearly shown us by the apostle Paul in First Corinthians 9:9-14), so here may we not see pictured by the "trees good for food," these same servants in another aspect, and made the objects of the Lord's particular care?

The people of Israel were admonished against all recklessness and waste in felling standing timber when they besieged the cities of the land. They were careful to ascertain the character of each particular tree before venturing to lift an ax against it. All fruit trees were to be spared, because they were part of God's gracious provision for ministering food to His people.

And may we not say that God would have us make the same distinction today? There are trees, to the very roots of which the ax must be laid; trees that are either mere cumberers of the ground, or producing only that which is noxious and poisonous. Such are the present-day advocates of human righteousness as a basis of acceptance with God, or the propagators of wicked teachings that deny the very foundations of the faith. Soldiers of the Lord of Hosts may be assured of His approval when they use the ax against these — exposing their fallacies. "Every plant," said the Lord Jesus, "that my heavenly Father hath not planted shall be rooted up. To fearlessly oppose such evil teachers and denounce their doctrines and practices, is in accord both with the Spirit of the Lord Jesus and of His apostles. None reproved hypocritical pretensions more scathingly than Christ Himself. No modern controversialist, with any claim to piety, would be likely to use stronger words than those of John the Baptist when he sternly arraigned the "generation of vipers" of his day. Tremendously telling are the denunciations of the apostle Paul, when necessity compelled him to meet the errors of false teachers troubling the early Church. John, Peter, and Jude hesitated not to decry the Antichrists, the purveyors of damnable heresies, and the ungodly men "turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ," who were creeping in among the saints, and seeking to overthrow their most holy faith.

But, be it noted, those so solemnly accused and vigorously combated, were not erring saints, or brethren with mistaken views, but they were relentless "enemies of

the cross of Christ, whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, who mind earthly things." And wherever such are found today, and manifestly proven to be such, they should be dealt with in the same way.

But there is grave danger lest the ax be lifted up against another class altogether — the *fruit-bearing trees* — whom the Lord has forbidden our judging or condemning. Every fruit tree is the object of His tender solicitude. Such are truly born of the Spirit, and genuine lovers of our Lord Jesus Christ. They may at times, in their zeal for God or their earnest passion for the souls of lost men, overstep bounds and use methods of which their more conservative or better-instructed brethren disapprove, but they are the Lord's servants, who has said, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth."

The spirit of criticism may lead to very unhappy results, and oftentimes one is in danger of finding himself arrayed against men and movements which God is owning and blessing. The utmost care is required to distinguish things that differ — that what is of God and what is of Satan may not come into the same sweeping condemnation. And our Lord Himself has given us the rule whereby we may make this distinction. He has said, "By their fruits ye shall know them." A corrupt tree produces corrupt fruit, whereas a good tree brings forth good fruit. In either case, the fruit may not always be the same in quantity or quality, but it will be either deleterious or "good for food." Because healthful fruit is sometimes small, or not up to the standard, one does not necessarily chop down the tree, but rather, wisely uses the pruning knife and purges it that it may bring forth more and better fruit.

And this pruning process is one that all God's fruit trees have at times to undergo; and often He uses one servant to correct and help another; but this is accomplished far better by a kindly personal admonition, or a brotherly effort to instruct, than by unkind criticism and a hard judging spirit. A beautiful example of this gracious care for one of God's fruit trees is given us in the book of Acts, in the case of Apollos, whose earnestness and love for the Scriptures appealed to the hearts of Priscilla and Aquila, though he was not at all up to the standard of New Testament truth. He had not got beyond the baptism of John. But this godly couple, instead of exposing his ignorance to others, or roundly denouncing him as a legalist without true gospel light, take him into their home, and there in true Christian love expound unto him the way of God more perfectly. What precious and abiding fruit was the result!

It is to be regretted that the same gracious spirit does not al-

## The Wrath of God

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE)

of the glory of God, short of the required standard of God's righteousness. But all men, unregenerated men, irrespective of color or class or creed are devoid of that God, required righteousness.

So beginning with the 18th verse with the discussion of the theme, God begins to tell us why that divine righteousness is required. And in chapter 1, verses 18 to 32, the unrighteousness of the Gentiles is pictured. Oh, what a picture! It is a gross picture of the human heart, that heart that is deceitful above all things and desperately wicked. As I said on the last broadcast, don't read that and then apply it to the heathen in Africa or the barbarians of South America. It applies to the human heart before God, irrespective of where they may reside. And then in chapter 2 to chapter 3:8, we have the unrighteousness of the Jews told forth, and then in chapter 3 beginning at verse 8 we have the conclusion. Here it is: "What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles that they are all under sin; As it is written, 'There is none righteous,' that is, that has the divine righteousness that is required of God — 'no, not one.' And I don't care who you are or where you may reside, you may be residing in some mansion on a hill surrounded by a wonderful garden, but I want to say, that unless you are in Jesus Christ, you are devoid of that standard of righteousness that God requires. 'There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.' And then He goes on to describe their actions, etc., and then we find these words: 'Now we know that what things soever the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.'

Now the underlying argument, the reasoning seems to be as follows: That whosoever sins (and all have sinned) incurs the judgment and the wrath of God. And we find in chapter 1, beginning at the 19th verse, that the heathen are taught by nature, "Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse." And when any man will have the audacity and the nerve to stand out under the blue, clear,

are manifesting similar devotedness, while ignorant of much that we may value. How senseless the folly that leads us oftentimes to array ourselves against such servants of Christ, in place of manifesting a godly concern for them. We thoughtlessly lift our axes against God's fruit trees, and would destroy where we might save. Many a one who is ignorant of much precious truth, is nevertheless bearing fruit in the salvation of souls and the refreshment of the spirits of believers; while, on the other hand, one may have a very clear intellectual grasp of divine principles, and understand much that is called high truth, who produces very little of this same blessed fruit.

Oh, beloved brethren, let us keep our axes sharp for the deadly Upas-trees of sin and fundamental error that abound on every side; but shall we not seek grace from God that we may have spiritual discernment to refrain from damaging in any way trees that are good for food?

Satan and his emissaries can be depended upon to bestow enough abuse on real Christians and true servants of the Lord Jesus, without their fellow-servants joining in the same unworthy business. Let us not forget the words already quoted, "Who art thou that judgest another man's servant? To his own master he standeth or falleth." And the Holy Ghost goes on to say, "Yea, and he shall be holden up, for God is able to make him stand."

(From Moody Church News, September 1940.)

## "He That Winneth Souls Is Wise"

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE TWO)

terror of unsaved people when they die. He is talking about the terrible fear that will come on the heart when a Christian comes before Christ with his life wasted and ruined and everything he ever did in the world to be made into a bonfire, and he comes all naked before God!

Oh, many, many Christians have only talents wrapped in a napkin. They say, "God, I don't believe you are honest. You gather where you have not sown and you reap where you sowed not. You are an austere man and I don't care much about serving you. I don't think it pays to win souls," and you lay aside your abilities and talents that God gave you. You are coming to the judgment seat of Christ — He is not talking about whether you are saved or not, He is talking about people who are already saved, already born again, in the resurrection body, gathered up to Heaven, already sitting down at the wedding table and then there will be a bonfire of all your wasted works. First Corinthians 3 tells about it, that every man's works will be tried by fire. Christian people, saved people, born again people who have no other foundation other than that which has already been laid in Christ. Rewards besides salvation — that is what the Lord is talking about in First Corinthians the third chapter.

"Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire." Oh, when everything is burned up! I tell you, not many things last in this world. You have a nice job, you ride in a fine car, you have good food for your belly and fine clothes for your back but you have played the fool and one day you will find that you have wasted all your life for things that didn't count, which are only trash, and will be burned up. "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats: but God shall destroy both it and them" (I Cor. 6:13). We had better get our minds on something else.

In Ft. Worth, Texas, I remember so well I preached the funeral sermon of a twelve year old boy. His father came the next day and said, "Brother Rice, I have been out to the garage seeing Scotty's play things, his skates, his ball and bat, and glove. I said, 'Scotty has better things than that now. I don't worry about Scotty having toys. He is in glory now and has left his toys here.' I stepped out beside the garage and looked down on Henderson Street at that big tent and awning business (he had worked hard and built up the business and put money into it until he had a big, prosperous business), I thought to myself, 'Oh, man, you will leave your toys one of these days. You had better be thinking about something that will last when that building is burned down and you are gone.' I tell you, my friends, souls are the things that count. Oh, when there comes a time for people to shine like stars, I hope God will give me a light. When we shine as stars forever and ever, then will be pay day for Christians who have really won souls.

In the light of the fire of Hell, how much is a soul worth?

And in the light of the blazing judgment seat of Christ, and of those wise ones who will shine like the brightness of the firmament and like the stars forever and ever — and in the light of the bonfire of wasted lives — how much is a soul worth?

Oh, beloved, be wise and win souls! Win your own loved ones today, with tears and pleading and Scripture, get them to trust Christ. Then write and tell us so, and we will rejoice together!

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## The Wrath of God

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE THREE)  
the Son hath life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on (literally hangeth over) him, waiting for you to make a decision and elect to come under the substitutionary atoning work of Christ here upon the cross of Calvary on Whom the wrath of God was poured out 1900 years ago. And if you are left to stand by yourself with the wrath of God hanging over you and you reject and reject the Lord Jesus Christ, then will come that day of affliction when that wrath will fall on you personally.

Now the word *wrath* is used twelve times in the book of Romans, and it is always connected with God. Let me read to you just two or three references:

Romans 2:5: "But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God."

Then the 8th verse:

"But unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath."

And then the 3rd chapter, verse

5: "But if our unrighteousness commend the righteousness of God, what shall we say? Is God unrighteous who taketh vengeance?"

And I could go on and give you the other references. And so you will clearly understand the teaching along this line, the word *wrath* moves toward the final or last judgment, the day of coming judgment.

Now we read in God's Word that He has appointed a day in which He will judge the world, and I am going to take time just to turn to it in my Bible. Acts 17:31; and here it is:

"Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."

And one of the sure signs of the coming day of judgment is this: It is approved and sealed and certified to you by the bodily resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ from among the dead.

Well, how will it be accomplished? When I turn to the 6th chapter of Revelation I see these words, and it is after the rapture of the church when the Judge is beginning to judge the whole world, the tribulation period to roll around, and He said, "And I beheld when he had opened the sixth seal, and, lo, there was a great earthquake: and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became as blood.

And the stars of heaven fell unto the earth, even as a fig tree casteth her untimely figs, when she is shaken of a mighty wind. And the heaven departed as a scroll when it is rolled together; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places."

And here: "the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains: and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?" (Rev. 6:12-17). And then in the 19th chapter of the same book:

"And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes were as a flame of fire, and on his head were many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself. And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean. And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he hath on his vesture and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS" (Rev. 19:11-16).

Listen to me, friends, it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Heb. 10:31), for God is jealous and the Lord revengeth and the Lord will take vengeance on His adversaries, and He reserveth wrath for His enemies, and every unregenerate man, let me tell you, even though you are an upright, useful citizen, you are a rebel and an enemy in God's realm, and unless you repent, the wrath of God will be your portion. Let me go on. The wrath of God was the theme of and was outstanding in all the Old Testament Scriptures. Listen to Jude, the record he gives of what Enoch said:

"And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, to execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him."

And then you take Peter — bless his heart, before the Lord was crucified he denied the Lord. But listen to him in Second Peter 2:5: "And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth

person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes condemned them with an overthrow."

I could go on. Moses preached on the wrath of God, and in the New Testament, John the Baptist came like a flaming fire and said, "Repent, and be converted. Repent!" And the great theme of repentance was preached by John the Baptist.

Peter preached it, and Paul ceased not to warn men day and night.

Well, so we could go on, but the balance of the chapter in Romans 1:19-32 shows the results of resisting the truth. I haven't time to go into it in detail, but first of all men are without excuse because nature tells of a mighty Creator. And then the Word clearly tells us that men knew God, in verse 21 of this first chapter, but resisted the truth, and professing themselves to be wise, they became fools. Now listen to me, you reject the Light and turn your back upon the Light of the world, Christ Jesus, and God's estimate of you is this, that you are a fool. Oh, those are not my words, those are the words of Scripture.

And then in verse 23 we find strong words here how that the natural result of rejecting leads to idolatry. And here we have so-called evolution, which I call devolution, how it changed the truth of God into a lie and served the creature more than the Creator, and how they went and made idols, even down to creeping things like snakes and lizards and what not. And then God writes across the whole caboodle this: "I GAVE THEM UP."

"Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to disown their own bodies between themselves." God gave them up, and I tell you, friends, if you persist in your hard-heartedness and being stiff-necked from day to day, there will come a time when you will step over the line and God will give you up. But as long as the Holy Spirit deals with you and you feel the pull toward God, then you may flee to the Ark of Refuge right away. Don't hesitate, don't wait. Tomorrow may be too late.

Oh, the gospel reveals the love of God. Oh, God gave His only begotten Son for wicked sinners, and He offers to justify anyone who believes. And so contrariwise, condemnation, indignation and wrath becomes the Lord's portion for all who reject God's mercy in Christ, when the Judge of all passes the sentence.

Oh, listen to me, your eternal destiny tonight is at stake. You can either spend eternity with Christ in the light of glory down through the eternal ages on God's unmerited favor by grace, or if you reject, it will be eternal blackness and separation forever. Truly it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

And the message is this: repent,

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for the day of judgment is coming, and it is coming because we know that Christ was raised from the dead.

I will just have time to close with this. You remember when Paul stood before King Agrippa, he was giving a résumé of his life. As he stood before that wicked, wilfully wicked king, yet Paul preached the death and the resurrection and the coming day of judgment. And when Festus thought he was beside himself, then Paul said, "I am not mad, most noble Festus, but speak forth the words of truth and soberness." And then to King Agrippa he says, "Believest thou the prophets, I know that thou believest." And then Agrippa said unto Paul, "Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian." And Paul stood there with threatening martyrdom, being almost threatened with having his head cut off, yet he dared to tell that wicked king of the coming day of judgment.

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demnation because there was a law passed that all the seed of Israel would be killed, and Esther was included. "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." And how with fear and trembling she came before the king one day — it is beautifully recorded in the 5th chapter that she found grace in his sight. And what happened? The king offered to her the golden scepter, and she touched the scepter and was saved. I want to say the King of kings and the Lord of lords has offered to you the golden scepter in the person of Jesus Christ. Will you reach out tonight, under condemnation, under sin, and touch the golden scepter and find favor in the sight of the King of kings?

Dear Sinner, you have been wandering far away from God out in the power of sin and darkness where there is no satisfaction and no rest and no peace, and you have the wrath of God abiding over you. Will you not come and touch the scepter of grace in Christ Jesus and hear the King of kings say, "Accepted in the Beloved"? Come tonight. And pray for us on this Old Fashioned Revival Hour.

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